

1 1. In a remote data mirroring arrangement of data storage systems, a method of
2 operating a data storage system comprises:
3 determining that storage traffic is to be transferred between the data storage system
4 and a remote data storage system to which the data storage system is coupled by an IP
5 network in accordance with a remote data service application; and
6 enabling transfer of the storage traffic between the data storage system and the remote
7 data storage system over the IP network using a native connection to the IP network.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the IP network is the Internet.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the IP network is a private network.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling comprises using a socket interface to
2 interface an operation of the remote data service to TCP/IP protocols.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the native connection comprises TCP/IP over Gigabit
2 Ethernet

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the socket interface is split across two processors,
2 with a first socket relay residing on a first processor and a second socket relay residing on a
3 second processor.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the first socket relay and remote data service
2 application operation conform to a common interface.

1 8. The method of claim 4, wherein enabling further comprises using the socket interface
2 to create a socket from which the native connection to the IP network is formed.

9. A computer program product residing on a computer-readable medium for operating a data storage system in a remote data mirroring arrangement of data storage systems, the computer program product comprising instructions causing a computer to:

- determine that storage traffic is to be transferred between the data storage system and a remote data storage system to which the data storage system is coupled by an IP network;
- and
- enable transfer of the storage traffic between the data storage system and the remote data storage system over the IP network using a native connection to the IP network.

10. A data storage system comprising:

- one or more storage devices;
- a controller coupled to the one or more storage devices; and
- wherein the controller directs local storage traffic from the data storage system to a remote data storage system over an IP network using a native connection to the IP network.